

A Solid That Dissolves in the Water in the Air: Deliquescence

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Open a dehumidifier container during the rainy season, and you will find that the bottom, once filled with nothing but white granules, now holds a pool of water. Nobody poured any water in, yet the granules keep shrinking and clear liquid takes their place. The solid has drawn in water vapor floating in the air on its own and then dissolved itself in that very water. This phenomenon is called “deliquescence.” Simply put, deliquescence means “a solid absorbing moisture from the air and then dissolving in the water it has absorbed to become a solution.” Many substances can hold on to moisture, b